

#2 of  
6/9/09



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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EXECUTIVE OFFICER

June 15, 2009

Colonel Thomas H. Magness, IV  
District Commander  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Los Angeles District  
P.O. Box 532711  
Los Angeles, CA 90053-2325

Dear Colonel Magness:

## REQUEST TO INITIATE COMPTON CREEK ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION STUDY

Pursuant to a motion by Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas at the June 9, 2009 meeting, the Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to urge the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to initiate the Ecosystem Restoration Study for the Compton Creek Watershed. There is a dire need for a study that would identify opportunities to address ecosystem restoration, flood protection, water quality, water conservation, public health, and recreational maintenance in this area.

Home to more than 700,000 residents, the Compton Creek Watershed drains a highly urbanized 42.1 square miles of the Los Angeles River Watershed within the Cities of Los Angeles and Compton and the unincorporated Willowbrook community. While a segment of the creek has retained a natural river bottom, the majority of the waterway has been paved with concrete and the surrounding lands have been almost completely developed. As a result, recreational opportunities in the surrounding communities and along the creek are limited, water quality is degraded, water conservation opportunities have not been realized, and open space and natural resources, such as plant and wildlife, have been greatly reduced.

The Los Angeles County Flood Control District and the Corps have expressed a concern that in the wake of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's mandated Levee Certification Program, the Compton Creek levy system must be upgraded; otherwise, an unmitigated flood risk to the lower reach of the creek may arise. A plan to

Colonel Thomas H. Magness, IV  
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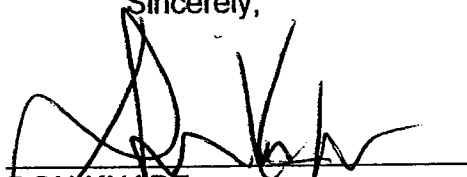
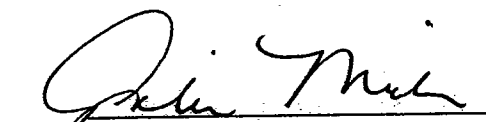
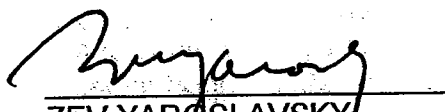
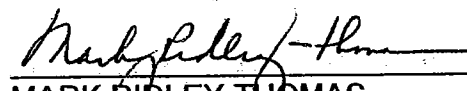
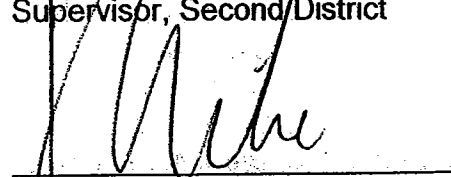
better understand current flood control capacity and flood risk in the area is essential for public safety and the economic viability of the surrounding community.

Ultimately, the plan should result in the successful development of projects that incorporate these multiple-benefit opportunities and invest millions of dollars of Federal, State, and local funds to enhance the watershed. We urge the Corps to undertake this study and look forward to working with you in its development.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Mr. Diego Cadena, Department of Public Works, at (626) 458-4008 or [dcadena@dpw.lacounty.gov](mailto:dcadena@dpw.lacounty.gov).

We very much appreciate your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

  
DON KNABE  
Chairman of the Board  
Supervisor, Fourth District  
GLORIA MOLINA  
Supervisor, First District  
ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Supervisor, Third District  
MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS  
Supervisor, Second District  
MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Supervisor, Fifth District

c: Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation  
Elected Officials/City Managers, Cities of Los Angeles, Long Beach and Compton  
Department of Public Works



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

GAIL FARBER, Director

900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE  
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331  
Telephone: (626) 458-5100  
<http://dpw.lacounty.gov>

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:  
P.O. BOX 1460  
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

August 6, 2009

IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE:

WM-5

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Gail Farber *Gail Farber*  
Director of Public Works

### **BOARD MOTION OF JUNE 9, 2009, AGENDA ITEM 2 DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE TASKED WITH DEVELOPING THE COMPTON CREEK MASTER IMPLEMENTATION AND ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PLANS**

On June 9, 2009, your Board approved a motion by Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas directing the Department of Public Works (Public Works) to work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps); the Departments of Parks and Recreation, Public Health, and Regional Planning; and other jurisdictions within the Compton Creek Watershed including the Cities of Compton, Long Beach, and Los Angeles, to develop an Intergovernmental Coordination Committee (ICC) that is tasked with developing Compton Creek Master Implementation and Ecosystem Restoration Plans. The motion also directed the committee to respond back to your Board within 60 days with a description of the project management, governance, budget, and timeline necessary to develop the plans.

As directed, we formed the ICC and held meetings on July 9, 2009, and August 6, 2009. During these meetings, the project management, governance, budget, and timelines for the Compton Creek Master Implementation Plan and Ecosystem Restoration Plan were determined as follows:

#### **Compton Creek Master Implementation Plan**

##### Project Management

Public Works will manage the development of the Compton Creek Master Implementation Plan. Stakeholders, members of the Compton Creek Watershed Task Force, and municipalities including the Cities of Compton, Lynwood, South Gate, Long Beach, and Los Angeles (collectively known as project partners) will assist in the development of the plan. Consultant services will be retained to facilitate collection, synthesis, and analysis of data associated with the plan.

### Governance

The plan will be developed on a consensus basis with input from all project partners. In addition, a key aspect in development of the plan will be including stakeholder and Compton Creek Watershed Community input.

Future implementation of the planning effort will be dependent on the agency with jurisdiction over the area proposed for improvement/development.

### Budget

It is currently estimated that development of the implementation plan will cost approximately \$250,000. Funding is currently being identified amongst project partners.

### Timeline

The tentative timeline for development of the Compton Creek Master Implementation Plan is as follows:

July 9, 2009	Presentation of Supervisor Ridley-Thomas' motion and Scope of Work at the Compton Creek Task Force meeting (complete).
August 6, 2009	Committee meeting to discuss and provide input for the final Scope of Work.
September 1, 2009	Comments incorporated – Scope of Work finalized.
September 15, 2009	Request for Proposal (RFP) finalized.
October 13, 2009	RFP advertised.
November 17, 2009	Screen proposals and select consultant.
December 8, 2009	Negotiation of agreement with consultant.
February 2, 2010	Receipt of Board authorization (Board letter).
February 9, 2010	Issue Notice to Proceed to consultant.
November 9, 2010	Implementation plan complete – submit to committee.

## **Compton Creek Ecosystem Restoration Plan**

### Project Management

The Corps will manage the development of this plan. The Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) will act as the lead local sponsor in the plan development. Project partners identified in the implementation planning effort will be convened throughout the development process to assist in the determination of needs and priorities within the watershed.

### Governance

The plan will be developed by the Corps through a stakeholder process defined under Federal regulations.

### Budget

It is currently estimated that development of the ecosystem restoration plan will cost approximately \$3 to \$5 million. One hundred thousand dollars in Federal funding is currently available to initiate the Scope of Work, schedule, and cost estimate for the ecosystem restoration plan. As the lead local sponsor, the LACFCD will be responsible for funding 50 percent of the plan. The LACFCD's contribution will be composed of cash and in-kind services.

### Timeline

The timeline will be developed by the Corps in parallel with the Scope of Work. We will work with the Corps with the expectation that the Scope of Work will be developed by the end of 2009. It is estimated the study will require two to five years to complete.

If you have any questions, please contact Mark Pestrella at (626) 458-4001 or [mpestrel@dpw.lacounty.gov](mailto:mpestrel@dpw.lacounty.gov) or your staff may contact Gary Hildebrand at (626) 458-4300 or [ghildeb@dpw.lacounty.gov](mailto:ghildeb@dpw.lacounty.gov).

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cc: Chief Executive Office (William T Fujioka, Lari Sheehan)  
County Counsel  
Executive Office ✓  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
Department of Public Health